

Various methods, systems and apparatus relating to the present invention are disclosed in the following co-pending applications filed by the applicant or assignee of the present invention on 23 May 2000:

09/575,197, 09/575,195, 09/575,159, 09/575,132,
 09/575,123, 09/575,148, 09/575,130, 09/575,165,
 09/575,153, 09/575,118, 09/575,131, 09/575,116,
 09/575,144, 09/575,139, 09/575,186, 09/575,185,
 09/575,191, 09/575,145, 09/575,192, 09/575,181,
 09/575,193, 09/575,156, 09/575,183, 09/575,160,
 09/575,150, 09/575,169, 09/575,184, 09/575,128,
 09/575,180, 09/575,149, 09/575,179, 09/575,187,
 09/575,155, 09/575,133, 09/575,143, 09/575,196,
 09/575,198, 09/575,178, 09/575,164, 09/575,146,
 09/575,174, 09/575,163, 09/575,168, 09/575,154,
 09/575,129, 09/575,124, 09/575,188, 09/575,189,
 09/575,162, 09/575,172, 09/575,170, 09/575,171,
 09/575,161, 09/575,141, 09/575,125, 09/575,142,
 09/575,140, 09/575,190, 09/575,138, 09/575,126,
 09/575,127, 09/575,158, 09/575,117, 09/575,147,
 09/575,152, 09/575,176, 09/575,115, 09/575,114,
 09/575,113, 09/575,112, 09/575,111, 09/575,108,
 09/575,109, 09/575,110

The disclosures of these co-pending applications are incorporated herein by cross-reference.-

In the claims

Please amend claims 1, 6, 7 and 9 as follows:

1. (Amended) A method of collecting a copyright fee relating to a document when a user obtains, via coded data disposed on a surface, the document, the method including, in a computer system, the steps of:

recording, in a copyright database, at least one copyright ownership relating to at least one portion of the document;

receiving, from a sensing device, indicating data indicative of a request for the document, the sensing device, when placed in an operative position relative to the surface, generating the indicating data using at least some of the coded data;

identifying, from the indicating data, the request for the document;

retrieving the document from a document database;

providing the document to the user;

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identifying, in the copyright database and from the indicating data, the copyright ownership relating to the document;

determining the copyright fee from the at least one copyright ownership; and

debiting a user account associated with the user in the amount of the copyright fee.

6. (Amended) A system for collecting a copyright fee relating to a document when a user obtains, via coded data disposed on a surface, the document, the system including:

a copyright database for recording at least one copyright ownership relating to at least one portion of the document;

a document database for storing the document;

a receiver for receiving, from a sensing device, indicating data indicative of a request for the document, the sensing device, when placed in an operative position relative to the surface, generating the indicating data using at least some of the coded data; and

a processor;

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the processor being configured to:

identify, from the indicating data, the request for the document;

retrieve the document from the document database;

provide the document to the user;

identify, in the copyright database and from the indicating data, the copyright ownership relating to the document;

determine the copyright fee from the at least one copyright ownership; and

debit a user account associated with the user in the amount of the copyright fee.

7. (Amended) The system of claim 6, wherein the processor is further configured to credit at least one owner account associated with the at least one copyright ownership in the amount of the copyright fee.

9. (Amended) The system of claim 6, wherein the processor is further configured to:

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receive, from the sensing device and via the receiver, identity data indicative of an identity of the user, the sensing device containing the identity data; and

identify, using the identity data, the user account.